

2002 Highlights

A Message from the City Manager . .

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2002 has been a year of change, not only for the City of Manistee, but the entire country. All levels of government are dealing with the aftermath of 9/11 and the spiraling economy that accompanied these terrorism attacks.

Manistee changes are centered around the growing pains of a mainly industrial community being discovered over the past 5-10 years as a community of destination. Our challenge is steep, how do we guide this community transition, while maintaining a high quality of life for both long term and new residents?

To this end, Manistee has had a very successful year, with an increased emphasis on governmental cooperation with our neighboring townships and county, and increased attention being directed to our existing neighborhoods. Over 900 squares of sidewalks were laid, Administration is meeting with citizens in their homes, playground equipment is being built; all in an effort to maintain and when possible, improve the quality of our neighborhoods.

2002 saw a fair amount of construction with Cherry Road leading the way, but nothing like previous years of CSO / Streetscape projects that have been completed.

The entire community should be proud of the accomplishments of 2002.

Mitchell D. Deisch, City Manager

CONSTRUCTION

1. Reconstructed Cherry between Twelfth Street and Merkey Road.
2. Six new homes constructed with MSHDA dollars. City donated six lots on Groves Street for the new homes.
3. Through the MSHDA NPP program a new restroom / concession stand has been constructed at Duffy Park.
4. Completed plans for underground utilities on Washington Street. This project should be completed in the spring of 2003.
5. Resurfaced various parking areas around the First Street Beach loop.
6. Budgeted \$60,000 for sidewalk removal and replacement. Resulted in over 900 sidewalk squares being replaced in the City of Manistee.
7. Repaved Elm Street and Oxford Court.
8. **FINALLY** finished the Streetscape Project except for the mast arm traffic lights at River and Maple and River and US-31.
9. Selected Fishbeck, Thompson, Carr & Huber to perform a preliminary engineering report on the Wastewater Treatment Plant expansion and reversal of the US-31 force main.
10. Completed the Kieszkowski / North Beach Access settlement. The berm was reconstructed and a portion of the deck was relocated.
11. Renovation of six rental rehab units through the use of MSHDA funds.
12. Rietz Park playground installation.
13. Started installation of an elevator in Ramsdell Theatre. Project should be completed by Spring 2003.
14. Replaced crosswalk at Division and River Street. Numerous other crosswalks are failing throughout River Street area. These will be replaced in the spring of 2003.
15. City crews assisted in the restoration of the Veterans Memorial.
16. New sewer mains were laid on Grove Street to connect the six MSHDA houses and Duffy Park restroom. Once the sewer main was available, a private home was also constructed on Monroe Street.

17. Administration worked with Rohm & Haas to design and install variable frequency pumps that allow the water wells to detect chloride levels and alternates wells to ensure chloride levels are below the secondary aesthetic criteria level.



New Cherry Road looking North. The Road was designed by Abonmarche.



Old Cherry Road looking North

GOVERNANCE

1. In April 2002 the City opposed the relocation of the PCA wastewater effluent pipeline from being relocated from Lake Michigan to the Manistee River Channel. The permit to relocate was approved by the MDEQ. The City then hired Warner, Norcross and Judd to file a Contested Case Hearing and a possible MEPA lawsuit to prevent the relocation. The end result of the City standing their ground is that we are now having a dialog with PCA that will result in a cleaner effluent being discharged. The exact location of the discharge will not be known in 2002.
2. Countless hours have been spent by both Administration and Council in discussions with Filer Charter Township discussing and negotiating an agreement to provide guaranteed wastewater treatment. This agreement would be the first of its kind between the City and Filer. It is hoped that this agreement will be signed by both communities in either December 2002 or early 2003.
3. The City of Manistee, in cooperation with the MML, worked to defeat Governor Engler's veto for cutting the constitutional portion of State-Shared Revenue. The City of Manistee stood to lose \$465,000 annually if this veto was not overridden by the Legislature. Councilmember Bob Hornkohl, City Manager, Police Chief, Fire Chief and members of the Manistee Fire Department all took part in the "Don't Hide From the Override" rally on the State Capitol lawn.
4. 2002-2003 Fiscal Budget was approved. The budget included a 4.6 million dollar General Fund with a total of 8.6 million dollars in all funds. This is the fifth straight year that millage has been reduced.
5. June 30, 2002 Audit was received and presented to the City Council on December 3. The Audit highlights an \$469,000 increase to the Fund Balance, bringing the Fund Balance up to \$1,197,158.
6. Master Plan was rewritten and approved by the Planning Commission. Last Master Plan was approved by the Planning Commission in 1988. This rewrite has been in the process for two years.
7. Parks Commission updated and approved the Manistee Parks and Recreation Master Plan. Included in this Master Plan is a graph showing all maintenance and improvement areas for each City park.
8. Revised the Renaissance Park Protective Covenants to reflect a more difficult environment in marketing the Renaissance lots than was previously believed when the Renaissance Park was developed. It is the City's belief that the revised Protective Covenants will improve the marketability of Renaissance Park.

9. Revised and approved a Service Agreement with Renaissance West for all Michigan Economic Development Corporation grants, Community Development Block grants and Michigan State Housing Development Authority grants.
10. Approved the MSHDA Participation Agreement, that will allow redevelopment of the Washington Street corridor and the Neighborhood Preservation Program MSHDA grant that was received in 2000.
11. City Council completed a thorough review of the Engineer of Record agreement and through a Request for Qualifications, selected Wade-Trim as the new Engineer of Record. The agreement is for three years.
12. Approved a Master Treasury Management Service Agreement.
13. Extended Riverfront leases for one year. During this year Administration will be reviewing and negotiating extended leases with the property owners.
14. Revised and approved water bill escrow deposits. The escrow deposits provide a greater level of insurance for the City of Manistee if unpaid rental water bills are accumulated.
15. Negotiated, drafted and approved the Economic Development Service Contract with MECCA.
16. Administration negotiated an industrial marketing agreement with Grubb & Ellis to assist the City of Manistee in marketing the M-55 Renaissance Park properties. It is anticipated that Council will approve the agreement in December 2002 or January 2003.
17. Adopted the new Uniform Traffic Code provisions that were approved by the State of Michigan.
18. Adopted the new Telecommunications Ordinance.



One of the six new MSHDA affordable homes located on Groves Street.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

1. Established an IFT District for Scholle Custom Packaging Corporation.
2. Participated in the MDOT US-31 Corridor Study. Council approved a not to exceed \$5,000 amount to help assist in funding the US-31 Corridor Study. Community Development Officer Jon Rose is serving as the Administrative liaison to this committee.
3. Utility Service Agreement to Provide Services to 23 Fowler Avenue in Manistee Township.
4. Zoning change approval for Maas Development including a street vacation of Fairway Lane and Golf Court. Maas Development is a senior housing complex developer.
5. Alley vacation of 1871. This alley vacation has finally been approved by City Council and recorded at the Manistee County Register of Deeds. The vacation is between Fourth and Fifth Street.
6. Zoning Ordinance amendment for the open space preservation provisions.
7. City Council approved the pet grooming ordinance 02-05.
8. IFT granted to Morton Salt / Rohm & Haas.
9. IFT granted to Scholle Custom Packaging Corporation.
10. Approval of the United States Environmental Protection Agency Brownfield Pilot grant. This will allow the City of Manistee to evaluate six potentially contaminated sites within the City. As part of the grant, City Manager Mitch Deisch and Community Development Officer Jon Rose attended the National Brownfield Conference in Charlotte, North Carolina.
11. City Council approved seven parcel splits in the year 2002.
12. City Council also approved two license agreements for public utility easements on City property in the year 2002.
13. Working on completing the wellhead protection / abandoned well project.

OPERATIONS

1. Officer Brian Cook, Officer Dave Nemecek, Sergeant Jeff Pefley and Parks Employee Adam Sundbeck undertook lifesaving rescue efforts at the Manistee Municipal Marina on June 29, 2002.
2. In car cameras were installed in all of the police vehicles through a Local Revenue Sharing Board grant.
3. Resolved the Dale Gannon homicide. Sergeant John Riley received a uniform bar for being the lead investigator of this homicide investigation.
4. Rescue 5 vehicle received a grant from the Rural Health Initiative grant which was matched 50% by the Motor Pool Fund.
5. Replaced all self-contained breathing apparatus for all firefighters in the Manistee Fire Department.
6. Initiated an employee compensation and classification study on all non-union employees.
7. Purchased a new aerial lift within the Department of Public Works.
8. Reorganization of the Finance /City Clerk Department.
9. Created and hired the Finance Director Position.
10. Promoted from within the Finance Department a new City Clerk and Deputy City Clerk.
11. Painted, repainted, sandblasted, hot dipped galvanized, and painted the ornamental iron railings in the downtown Streetscape project.
12. With the assistance and persistence of the Beatification Committee and especially Henry Bergman, the City was able to use the downtown flower baskets.
13. Power washed the entire downtown sidewalk area.
14. Power washed the entire Riverwalk project.
15. An upcoming PBS special “Great Lakes Ports of Call” was filmed featuring the Manistee waterfront.
16. The Beautification Committee arranged for volunteers to plant and maintain the large flower boxes on River Street and the adopt-a-garden areas along the Riverwalk.
17. The Parks Department, assisted by the contractual services of Len Dufon, made great strides on improving and maintaining the landscaping in the downtown and riverwalk areas.

18. The DDA painted the wall at 333 River Street to everyone's delight.
19. Swings were installed at the Municipal Marina for all residents and visitors to enjoy.
20. Five new employees joined the Manistee team. Finance Director Ed Bradford, Police Officer Phil Catlin, Police Officer Lindsay Perkins, Firefighter Heath Darling and Parks Employee Mike Feliczak. Welcome aboard!
21. Reorganized the Parks Department. The Parks Director position was eliminated, with Jack Garber assuming the departmental operations. Gary Niesen was promoted to Parks Crew Leader.
22. The City of Manistee team lost several valuable employees through retirement. These employees were Ken Oleniczak (39 years), Homer Ramsdell (31 years), Ed Sundbeck (27 years) and Dan Janowiak (26 years). Incredibly over 123 years of combined experience retired this past year.
23. Jeff Pefley and Matt Thompson were promoted to Sergeants in the Police Department.
24. Doug Dominick was promoted to Captain in the Fire Department.
25. The Fire Department upgraded its EMS license from medical first responder to basic life support. This allows the use of some new and critical life saving tools.
26. Mobile data project went online in the Police Department in December 2002.
27. The City of Manistee and the Police Department were featured in a novel set at the Municipal Marina. The book is titled "Marina Murders."
28. Manistee was used as a backdrop for MOPAR printed advertisements, assisted by the Police and Fire Departments.
29. City officials participated in a successful Mayors Exchange with officials from Sault Ste. Marie. Wonderful information was shared as well as everyone enjoying the visits. Next year Manistee will be exchanging with Boyne City.
30. Minimal changes were made to the First Street Beach Fish Cleaning Station. These changes, along with cooler temperatures, resulted in significantly fewer odor complaints. The changes centered around twice-a-day pick up and sanitizing the dumpster after each collection. Again we estimate that over 700 tons of fish were processed at this location.
31. The City of Manistee hosted a regional HAZMAT mock disaster that included other departments from Muskegon to Traverse City.
32. The Local Revenue Sharing Board awarded \$113,275 in grants to the City of Manistee in 2002. Over the past three years the City has received \$356,094 from this board.

33. Implemented first 24 hour road patrol for winter snow maintenance. This program has been successful and will be utilized again in 2003.
34. Microscopic examination equipment was purchased by the WWTP which will allow operators to better identify secondary treatment operations.



Rietz Park Playground dedication. The Playground was financed through a grant from the Holland Development Corporation and was designed and selected by local young residents. New sidewalks, benches, swings and trash containers all compliment this new playground structure.



DIRECTORY OF OFFICIALS - 2003

Mayor Richard Mack
Mayor Pro-Tem William Shales
Councilman Neil Assante
Councilwoman Kathy Fenstermacher
Councilman Robert Hornkohl
Councilman Robert Goodspeed
Councilman Alan W. Marshall

City Manager Mitchell D. Deisch

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Mayor Richard Mack
Mayor Pro-Tem William Shales
Councilman Neil Assante
Councilwoman Kathy Fenstermacher
Councilman Robert Hornkohl
Councilman Robert Goodspeed
Councilman Kenneth Wroblewski

City Manager Mitchell D. Deisch